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ABSTRACT

The San Diego City Schools (California) has received nearly $500,000 in federal funds to replicate and evaluate the following successful dropout prevention programs: (1) Motivation and Maintenance (M and M); (2) Partnership Academy; and (3) Summer Training and Education Program (STEP). The M and M program is designed to provide a case management approach to the problems of at-risk students in high schools and their feeder elementary and middle schools. Students receive the services of outreach consultants who work with students, their parents, and community businesses and agencies to provide tutoring, medical care, shelter, and clothing. The consultants also work to develop donations of goods and services to use as incentives for tudents. The Partnership Academy is a 3-year senior high school-within-a-school model, emphasizing basic skills, career instruction and summer work experience. Business support for the program is developed in diverse career areas. STEP is focused on at-risk 14- and 15-year olds. It offers a combination of work, remedial education, and life skills instruction during the summer, as well as school year counseling and support services. Contact information is included. (FMW)

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SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS
Office of the Deputy Superintendent

THE SCHOOL DROPOUT DEMONSTRATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

San Diego City Schools has received nearly $500,000 in federal funds to replicate three successful dropout prevention programs in a School Dropout Demonstration Assistance Program. The award was the largest made by the United States Department of Education under the Dropout Demonstration Program.

Under the terms of the grant, the district will:

- expand the Motivation and Maintenance ("M and M") program originally implemented by the State of California as part of its SB 65 dropout prevention legislation;
- continue the Summer Training and Education Program (STEP) model demonstrated in San Diego and four other cities by public/private ventures and funded by the Ford Foundation;
- establish a Partnership Academy in one high school, replicating a highly successful school-within-a-school model now operating in ten California school districts; and
- evaluate the impact of these programs in helping students remain successfully in school.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PROGRAM

Overall responsibility for program management is in the office of the Deputy Superintendent, who has districtwide responsibility for dropout prevention efforts. The Motivation and Maintenance ("M and M") program will operate in two high school "clusters" (each comprised of a high school and its feeder elementary and middle level schools). Under state funding through SB 65, the "M and M" program has proven effective in improving attendance and academic achievement and increasing the holding power of "at risk" students in two other high school clusters. The "M and M" program has been successful in reducing the dropout rate in the targeted schools, leaving the Hoover and Morse high school clusters with the highest dropout rates in the district. The Partnership Academy program will also be implemented at Morse High School and will complement the efforts of the "M and M" program there. Students will be recruited from several areas of the district to participate in STEP.

The district's evaluation department will monitor effectiveness of program implementation. Data collected on project participants will be used to further develop and refine the district's student information system to identify potential dropouts.

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Motivation and Maintenance ("M and M") program is designed to provide a "case management" approach to the problems of at-risk students. Each participating school will target approximately 100 students to receive the services of the

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"M and M" outreach consultants. These outreach consultants work with the students and their parents as well as businesses and agencies in the community to connect the students with services they need, including tutoring, medical care, shelter, and clothing. The counselors also work to develop donations of goods and services to use as incentives for students, including tickets, meals, barber and beauty services, and school supplies. All funds in the "M and M" program are for personnel costs and related services; no expenditures for direct gifts to students are allowable.

The Partnership Academy is a three-year senior high school-within-a-school model, emphasizing basic skills education, career-related instruction in a particular field, development of business support for the program, and connection to work for students through business mentoring and summer employment. The Partnership Academy concept was originally implemented in the San Francisco Bay Area with a connection to computer and high tech corporations; it has been successfully replicated in ten California school districts in such diverse career areas as health, business, and broadcasting careers.

The Summer Training and Education Program (STEP) is focused on dropout-prone 14 and 15 year olds. It offers a combination of work, remedial education, and life skills instruction during the summer, plus school year counseling and support services. STEP was initially funded by a grant from the Ford Foundation and has been effective in showing gains in students' reading and math scores, and in increasing the use of contraception among sexually active teens.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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